

Message Text

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SUBJECT: SOVIET NAVAL VISIT TO BOSTON

REF: LENINGRAD 693

1. VISIT HAS BEEN EXTREMELY SUCCESSFUL AND A MAJOR ATTRAC-
TION IN BOSTON, AND WITH ONE DAY REMAINING THERE HAVE BEEN
NO SIGNIFICANT HITCHES OR INCIDENTS. MEDIA COVERAGE HAS BEEN
FRIENDLY AND HOSPITABLE. "BOSTON GLOBE" MAY 14 EDITORIAL
PROCLAIMED QTE YANKIE SALYUTUYUT RUSSKIKH, UNQTE FOLLOWED
BY FIVE-PARAGRAPH WELCOME IN RUSSIAN AND ENGLISH. PUBLIC
INTEREST HAS BEEN HIGH. DOUBLE ATTRACTION OF SOVIET DES-
TROYERS AND USS ALBANY (SECOND FLEET FLAGSHIP, SERVING AS
HOST FOR VISIT) HAS DRAWN LARGE CROWDS DURING GENERAL VISIT-
ING HOURS. ESTIMATES VARY (OVERWHELMED BY CROWDS, SOVIETS
LOST EXACT COUNT ON FIRST DAY), BUT IT WOULD APPEAR THAT

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SOME 20,000 BOSTONIANS HAVE VISITED SOVIET SHIPS THUS FAR.
RAIN FRIDAY MORNING DOES NOT SEEM TO BE DISCOURAGING CROWDS
ON FINAL DAY OF VISITING. SOVIETS HAVE MET WITH FRIENDLY
CURIOSITY ON OUTINGS AND LARGE GROUP WHICH ATTENDED BOSTON

BASEBALL GAME (RED SOX) THURSDAY EVENING WERE HONORED WITH
STANDING OVATION BY CROWD IN STADIUM.

2. SOVIETS ON THEIR PART SEEM EXTREMELY PLEASED AT ALL
LEVELS WITH WAY VISIT IS GOING AND ARE PARTICULARLY APPRE-
CIATIVE OF EXTENSIVE PUBLIC ATTENTION AND OFFICIAL COURTES-
IES. PROTOCOL AND CEREMONIAL ASPECTS OF VISIT HAVE GONE WELL,
INCLUDING CALLS ON OFFICIALS AND FORMAL WREATH-LAYING CERE-
MONY. CALL BY CNO ADMIRAL HOLLOWAY ON REAR ADMIRAL KALIN
WAS MOST WELCOME AND VIEWED AS A SPECIAL COURTESY. AMBASSADOR
DOBRYNIN WAS IN BOSTON FOR ARRIVAL AND FIRST NIGHT OF SHIPS'
STAY, AND WE UNDERSTAND THAT MINISTER COUNSELOR VORONTSOV
WILL BE PRESENT FOR DEPARTURE.

3. SOVIETS, WHO SET CONFIDENT TONE WITH IMPRESSIVE ARRIVAL
HAVE TAKEN TO THEIR ROLE AS MUCH SOUGHT-AFTER VISITING
CELEBRITIES. SOVIETS SEEM TO BE MAKING REAL EFFORT TO MAKE
MOST OF PROGRAM AND TO PARTICIPATE IN AS MANY ACTIVITIES
AS POSSIBLE. THEY HAVE HAD TO TURN DOWN MANY INVITATIONS.
SOVIET SAILORS HAVE BEEN TAKEN ON EXTENSIVE SIGHT-SEEING,
INCLUDING BOSTON AREA, AND VISIT TO NORFOLK (WHERE SOVIET
SAILORS MADE RUN ON PX). GROUP OF SOVIET SAILORS TODAY ARE
SCHEDULED TO VISIT LEXINGTON/CONCORD AREA WITH LUNCH AT
MCDONALDS.

4. PERFORMANCES BY SOVIET "AMATEUR" MUSICIANS AND DANCERS
HAVE MADE BIG HIT AT EVENING RECEPTIONS.

5. ONE-HOUR PEACEFUL NOON TIME DEMONSTRATION MAY 15 ON
SIDEWALK OUTSIDE PIER AREA FENCE BY 8-10 MEMBERS OF BOSTON
JEWISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL DURING SHIPS' NON-VISITING HOURS
WENT LARGELY UNNOTICED EVEN BY BY-STANDERS. GROUP CARRIED
SIGNS SAYING "LET MY PEOPLE GO" AND DISTRIBUTED ENGLISH-
LANGUAGE FLYERS WELCOMING SOVIETS TO BOSTON AND WISHING THEM
A PLEASANT STAY BUT INSISTING THAT DETENTE BE ACCOMPANIED
BY DROPPING OF SOVIET RESTRICTIONS ON JEWISH EMIGRATION.
SOVIETS, WHO WERE FOREWARNED OF DEMONSTRATION AND ASSURED
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THAT NECESSARY MEASURES WOULD BE TAKEN TO PROTECT SHIPS
AND CREW, SEEMED UNCONCERNED, ALTHOUGH THEY TOOK THE PRE-
CAUTION OF KEEPING MOST PERSONNEL OUT OF SIGHT OF DEMON-
STRATION AREA. KISSINGER

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